

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for depicting contour lines on the surfaces of a model, the apparatus comprising a bed for supporting the model, and at least one laser for projecting a plane of light at a predetermine height from the bed.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one laser projects a plurality of planes of light each at a different predetermined height from the bed.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of lasers, and each laser projects a plane of light at a different predetermined height from the bed.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of generally vertical walls forming a work space on the bed, and wherein the surface at least some of the generally vertical walls are mirrored to reflect laser light to form a plane of light above the surface of the bed.

5. An apparatus for depicting contour lines on the surface of a model; the apparatus comprising a generally horizontal work surface for supporting a model, at least one vertical sidewall at least partially surrounding the work surface, a reflector on at least a portion of the side wall; and at least one laser source for projecting a fan-shaped beam across the horizontal work surface to the reflector.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein there are a plurality of laser sources at different heights relative to the work surface.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the fan shaped beams of each of the laser sources are equally vertically spaced.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the color of adjacent fan shaped beams are different.

9. An apparatus for depicting contour lines on the surface of a model, the apparatus comprising: a generally horizontal work surface for supporting the model; at least one vertical sidewall at least partially surrounding the work surface, and means for generating a plurality of planes of laser light across the generally horizontal work surface which illuminate contour lines on a model on the work surface.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein color of adjacent planes of laser light are different.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the planes of laser light are equally spaced.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the means for generating a plurality of planes of laser light comprise at least one laser source, and reflectors on at least a portion of the vertical sidewall.

13. An apparatus for depicting contour lines on the surface of a model, the apparatus comprising a bottom, a plurality of sidewalls surrounding the bottom, at least one internal wall inside the sidewalls defining a modeling area and a non-modeling area; at least one window in the interior wall, and at least one laser source in the non-modeling area of the apparatus adapted to project a generally fan-shaped laser beam through the at least one window in the interior wall and across the modeling area.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein at least portions of the walls surrounding the modeling area are reflective to reflect the fan-shaped laser beams.

15. A method of depicting contour lines on surfaces of a model, the method comprising projecting a plurality of planes of light in spaced relation over the surface of a support to illuminate contour lines on objects on the surface that break the planes of light.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the planes of light are generally horizontal.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the planes of light are substantially equally vertically spaced.

18. The method according to claim 15 wherein the plurality of planes of light are projected horizontally over the surface at different heights.

19. A method of depicting contour lines on a model on a work surface surrounded by a sidewall, the method comprising projecting a plurality of planes of laser light horizontally across the work surface, and different levels to illuminate contour lines on the model where the planes impinge the model.